

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

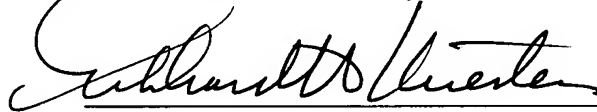
The present application is a continuation of co-pending parent U.S. Patent Application No. 10/327,072, filed December 24, 2002, which is a continuation application of PCT Application No. PCT/JP02/04083, filed April 24, 2002. The present continuation application is submitted to prosecute amended Claim 1, original Claim 3 and new Claims 21 and 22.

Thus, Claims 1, 3, 21, and 22 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 4-20 are canceled, Claim 1 is amended, and Claims 21 and 22 are added by the present amendment. Claims 21 and 22 recite features similar to those of Claims 1 and 3, respectively, with a varied scope. It is believed no new matter is added.

Accordingly, an action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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